



# The MINUTEMAN

Official Newsletter of the Minuteman Repeater Association

Volume 15, Number 2

September 1987

## President's Comments

The MMRA begins another year with this issue of *The Minuteman* and I look forward to an exciting 12 months. There are a number of changes, however, that have to take place before we can consider ourselves to be an energetic and up-and-coming club.

First, we have to enroll more members. To get new members we need to create a desire to participate in the club and its activities. The primary problem has been staffing new projects to generate new interest. During the summer, we have assigned officers and directors the job of finding people willing to perform needed functions. We have been fortunate to locate for the newsletter a new publisher, Dave Crocker, WITMO, and a new editor, Peter Costa, WA1VVF. This issue of the newsletter is, in fact, the product of their efforts. But remember, for a newsletter to be successful, it has to have contributors. So please send in information on your activities, technical projects, hints and kinks, public service activities, propagation reports, or whatever subject you think would be of interest to our membership.

I believe we will be able to transmit copy for the newsletter via telephone modem, packet radio, or by sending a floppy disk through the U.S. Mail. (Dave and Peter tell you more about how to submit your copy in the next issue of *The Minuteman*.)

Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, and Frank Hilbrunner, WIJDO, will be running the raffle at the membership meetings. We are still looking for a public service coordinator, an education coordinator, and someone to handle the refreshments at the membership meetings.

What we are trying to do this year is recapture that same sense of spirit and adventure we had when we first put new repeaters on the air, added phonepatch capabilities, designed new installations and planned for the future. Now that we have completed those tasks and the re-

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## Emergency Communications to be Topic at September 21st Meeting

Guest speaker at our meeting on Monday, September 21st will be Royce Sawyer, NIBPU, who will address the topic "Emergency Communications for the State of Massachusetts." Royce is Communications and Warning Officer for Massachusetts Civil Defense Headquarters in Framingham. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. for socializing with a short business meeting scheduled to start at 7:30 to be followed by our guest speaker. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at the break. The meeting will be held at the Campion Center in Weston.

*See map on page 4.*

## 01/61 and 440 Notes

During the last year we have made a number of improvements to the Marlboro repeater, and have been rewarded with increased use by the membership. We're glad to see that so many of you are using the machine and want you to know about those improvements and some of the things we have planned for this year for 61.

Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, has built two Hamtronics receiver kits for installation on the Spectrum repeaters. The selectivity of these receivers is almost incredible. They have completely eliminated some of the interference problems we were having with the old receivers.

A new Super Stationmaster antenna was installed last fall. That, along with a new Heliac feedline, have radically improved transmitter and receiver coverage.

Right now we are using a solidstate amplifier with output of about 100 watts. This spring we obtained the twin 4CX-250 amplifier that used to be in Quincy. We are refurbishing the amp, and plan to have it online sometime this fall. It will be tuned for about 200 watts output, so we should gain some coverage in the fringe areas.

## November Meeting Features Talk on Propagation

At our meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 17th, Dan Odum of Raytheon Equipment Development Laboratories will be speaking on the topic: "Propagation Characteristics—DC to Visible Light." The meeting will be held at the Islington Community Church in Westwood, MA.

## Scheduled 1988 Meetings

Wednesday, 20 January at the Weston Campion Center

Monday, 21 March at the First Congregational Church, Reading, MA.

Wednesday, 18 May again at the Weston Campion Center

Along with improved output, we are going to add a high gain, low-noise pre-selector in front of the new Hamtronics receivers. With that addition, we should see something in the order of 10 Db or more improvement in sensitivity.

In addition, we plan some improvements to the audio portion of the phone patch system. We need some AGC on the telephone audio, so we will be installing Automatic Gain Control circuitry in the Hybrid patch.

Scott is the trustee of the 440 machine in Marlboro; he is a consummate professional, working for Masscom as one of their senior technicians, and Director of Operations. He has done a lot to improve the operation of that repeater: realignment, re-cabling and site cleanup have been among his priorities to get the 440 machine playing well.

Along with his work on 61, Scott is building a completely new repeater for the 449.925 Marlboro Repeater. He is using Hamtronics components, along with a custom-built chassis and controller interfaces. It should become a hot machine for the 440 bunch. We have been kicking around the possibility of linking 925 and 61; if there is anyone out there who would

*Continued on page 4.*

## Minutes of MMRA General Membership Meeting —May 13, 1987

The president K1IAO called the meeting to order with 44 members in attendance. The slate of officers and directors nominated by the nominating committee were introduced. They were K1IAO, president; KA9CRG, vice president; KB1FZ, secretary; K1PBL, treasurer; K3BUZ, clerk; N1BHI, director (2 years) and KA1CLX, director (2 years). There being no contested positions, a voice vote was taken and the slate was unanimously approved.

The treasurer's report was read. Bob Solow requested a reconciliation of amounts budgeted as compared with amounts spent. It was agreed that this information would be provided at the next meeting since it was not immediately available. The new insurance policy and accompanying \$1,750 expenditure was explained by KA1AL.

N1BHI explained that the new code mailed out last month was not compatible with the Weston and Marlboro repeaters. The old codes will remain in service on these repeaters only until new codes are mailed out to all members with an appropriate change over date.

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ, Clerk

## Minutes of MMRA Board Meeting—July 8, 1987

The board met at 7:30 in Al Kunian's law office. K1IAO, KA9CRG, K1PBL, K3BUZ, KA1AL, and N1BHI were present. KB1FZ, KA1CLX, and WB2DCL could not be present.

Reports on special tasks assigned by the president followed:

KA1AL and K3BUZ reported that no newsletter editor and publisher had yet been found but likely candidates had been identified.

K1IAO and K1PBL reported that the new seasons meetings had been scheduled for the Campion Center in Weston on September 21, 1987; January 20, 1988; and May 18, 1988. The board agreed to approach the church in Reading and church hall in Westwood where we held last year's meetings to schedule the November and March meetings.

N1BHI and K3BUZ reported that the transceiver clinic plans for August are proceeding but that final site selection has not been made. We will provide test equipment and measure power output, deviation, and frequency but will not

adjust or repair equipment. Our club insurance is not general liability and will not cover damage claims for an activity of this type. Repairs and adjustments can be made by owners. KA1AL offered the use of his law office parking lot if no better location was available. Announcement of the date and location will be made on all local repeaters. All hams are welcome.

N1BHI reported on a concept for a service point plan which would award points for services rendered by members to the organization. The current concept would provide three categories, each with a prize of increasing value to be drawn annually. Increasing point thresholds would have to be exceeded to make a member eligible in each category. Further details will be worked out as the plan develops.

Other business brought before the board:

Concern was voiced that the value of the prizes we raffle off at meetings is too low to attract members to the meetings. Additional concern was voiced that current meeting attendance could not support more valuable prizes without subsidy. It was agreed that manufacturers and dealers should be approached for raffle items at deep discount in exchange for suitable promotion in the newsletter announcing the raffle item.

It was suggested that a repeater introductory booklet similar to one published by the association years back be reinstated. Cost estimates for typesetting and publishing were \$500, and it was agreed that the newsletter situation would have to be resolved before reconsidering this item.

K1PBL reported that the treasurer needs to be informed by all repeater trustees about who (individual and address) is to be paid for the regular bills (rent, electricity, etc.) and when they are due so the association doesn't require repeated notices before payments are credited to our account.

KA1AL reminded all trustees that the next registration for the repeater guide is due to the New England Spectrum Management Council, K1VHR, by October 1987, using forms in the back of the 1987-88 Repeater Directory.

K3BUZ reported that the state could find no record of the annual reports being filed for the past ten years, and that the association had been dissolved on November 17, 1986 for failure to file this required report. The association can be revived for a \$35 fee upon filing the required form and annual reports from

1976 through 1986 with fees of \$10 per year (total \$135). Work is ongoing to research the information required to fill out the forms for the past ten years.

K1IAO mentioned that dues letters must go out to all members before the September meeting and that a board recommended budget must be finalized for distribution in the September newsletter which must be mailed by September 11, 1987.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 1987 at 7:30 in Al Kunian's law office when the budget will be finalized.

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ, Clerk

## Minutes of MMRA Board Meeting—September 2, 1987

The MMRA Board of Directors met at 7:30 PM in Al Kunian's law office. K1IAO, KA9CRG, N1BHI, K1PBL, KB1FZ, KA1CLX, K3BUZ, WB2DCL and the new newsletter editor Peter Costa, WA1VVF and publisher Dave Crocker, W1TMO were present. KA1AL was absent.

Budget inputs were discussed. With the current membership of 426, \$8,520 in 1987-88 dues can be projected to add to the \$1,500 surplus in our account. Minimum expenses to run the meetings, newsletter, insurance, repeater rents, telephone, electricity, and minimal maintenance total over \$9,000 based on 1986-87 experience. This minimum budget will be recommended to the membership for approval.

Possible cost savings for telephone charges for second lines in Stoneham and Weston may amount to \$400 to \$600 per year if the lines can be eliminated or

## MMRA Officers and Staff

President . . . . .	Hazen J. Saltmarsh, K1IAO 617-326-6179
Vice President . . .	Matthew J. Valteau, KA9CRG
Secretary . . . . .	Frank P. Morrison, KB1FZ
Treasurer . . . . .	Robert M. Fraser, K1PBL
Clerk . . . . .	Barri Brozenske, K3BUZ
Directors (1 yr. terms) . .	Alan E. Kunian, KA1AL Scott R. Bullock, KA1CLX
Directors (2 yr. terms) . .	Ralph McNall, WB2DCL Andrew L. Morrison, N1BHI
Minuteman Publisher . .	Dave Crocker, W1TMO 617-444-7724
Minuteman Editor . . . .	Peter Costa, WA1VVF 617-237-4175

Please send editorial contributions to:

MMRA Minuteman  
Peter Costa, WA1VVF  
95 Overbrook Drive, Wellesley, MA 02181

changed to a lower class of service. A new SCOM controller costing \$1,000 which can handle the complexities of the new area code coming next year west of Route 128 could eliminate one of the Weston lines but cannot be budgeted this year without more funds.

A packet digipeater and limited bulletin board was suggested for the Marlboro repeater site but the \$1,500 cost cannot be budgeted without more funds.

Sources of additional income were discussed. It was proposed that sale of advertising space in the newsletter might bring in revenue equal to the \$200 per issue production cost. WAIVVF and WITMO will explore this possibility after we have a sample of the new newsletter to show advertisers. Some savings in mail costs (20 percent) might be achieved by getting a non profit organization permit from the post office and organizing the mailings by zip code which is easy with our new computer data base.

A dues increase was considered and rejected this year. However, if membership does not increase and costs are not decreased a dues increase will be inevitable next year when we will be forced to buy a new controller for Weston or de-grade phone patch service.

Royce Sawyer, Massachusetts Civil Defense communications director will speak at our September 21, 1987 meeting. Dan Odem of Raytheon will speak about amateur band propagation characteristics at our November meeting.

The next newsletter must be mailed by September 14, 1987. It will include a computer generated individualized membership renewal notice with member information which can be updated and returned with the years dues.

WAIVVF has a PC/AT computer with modem and can also accept newsletter inputs as an ASCII file or Word Perfect word processor file on IBM PC floppy discs. Direct computer input to Peter will save much unnecessary retyping.

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ, Clerk

## President's Comments

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peaters are up and running serving hundreds of users, we do not want to become complacent. A lot more can and should be done.

We need new objectives and we need your input. Some new proposals are as follows:

- Linking our own repeaters;
- MMRA repeater linking with other club repeater systems;
- Setting up a packet repeater with some BBS capabilities to allow electronic mail forwarding of MMRA information to the general membership and to individual members.

The above are just a few ideas to rekindle interest in the MMRA. Also, if you know some young or not so young people who are considering becoming Novices and taking advantage of the new

enhancement privileges, steer them to us. We need to increase our membership rolls to have that critical mass of funds and people energy to make the MMRA the exciting club it can be.

Thank you and I hope to see you all at our September 21st meeting.

"73", Salty, K1IAO



## Proposed 87/88 Budget

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
86/87 Balance (9/1/87)	\$ 1,500.00	
87/88 Dues Income (est. 425 members)	8,500.00	
Raffle Income	375.00	
<b>REPEATER COSTS</b>		
MARLBORO 146.61 Mhz		
Electricity/Rent	\$ 150.00	
Telephone	360.00	
GLB Preselector	150.00	
Misc. Repairs & Maintenance	300.00	\$ 960.00
MARLBORO 449.925 Mhz		
Electricity	150.00	
Telephone	333.00	
Antenna (Super Stationmaster)	400.00	
Antenna Transmission Line (Hardline)	300.00	1,183.00
QUINCY 146.67 Mhz		
Electricity	120.00	
Telephone	300.00	
Misc. Repairs & Maintenance	200.00	620.00
QUINCY 224.40 Mhz		
Electricity	120.00	
Misc. Repairs & Maintenance	150.00	270.00
STONEHAM 146.715 Mhz		
Electricity/Rent	No Cost	
Telephone	636.00	
Replacement Receiver Board - Spectrum SCR200A	230.00	
VHF Watt/SWR Meter - Kenwood SW-200B	116.00	982.00
WESTON 146.82 Mhz		
Electricity/Rent	400.00	
Telephone	706.00	
GLB Preselector	150.00	
Misc. Repair & Maintenance	300.00	1,556.00
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	
Insurance	1,500.00	
Meeting Costs (Hall Rental & Refreshments)	250.00	
Meeting Refreshments	156.00	
Raffle	375.00	
President's Expenses (Mailing of 88/89 Candidate List)	100.00	
Secretariat Expenses	370.00	
Treasurer's Expenses	75.00	
CEMARC Membership	100.00	3,926.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$10,375.00</u>	<u>\$9,497.00</u>

## Secretary's Note

The Secretary is pleased to report that maintenance of membership records has recently been transferred to a computerized database system. This database includes not only a record of member number, call, name, address, telephone number, and membership expiration date, but it also records (when the data is available) the type of equipment available and the specific area(s) of interest and participation of the member (i.e. antennas, theory, public service, etc.). New members are urged to fill out the membership form completely so that all pertinent data can be included in the database. Renewing members are also urged to fill out the membership form in order to update the database with current information.

The wallet-sized membership cards used in the past will be replaced by a printed form which contains all the pertinent membership information and which can (if desired) be trimmed and laminated for longer life. These membership forms will be mailed by the Secretary to members upon receipt of dues payment, and will be valid for one year commencing each September. The membership information will include the current autopatch access codes for all MMRA repeaters.

The use of this computer-based data system will greatly increase the efficiency of keeping membership records and of disseminating information to the membership. You are all urged to fill out the data update form included with this Newsletter and mail it to P.O. Box 2282.

73 de Frank, KB1FZ, Secretary

## Membership Dues

Membership dues will remain at \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families this year. However, the amount of income provided from a membership base of 425 people does not generate enough revenue to allow the MMRA to do more than basically maintain the repeaters we have now.

MMRA dues have remained the same for 10 or 11 years. In the meantime, consider what has happened to the skyrocketing cost of parts and equipment. Also, just three years ago the insurance bill we paid was about \$135. The 1987 insurance bill was \$1500, or more than 10 times what it was in 1984. That increase alone used the dues from 68 members.

There are two ways of increasing the dues income: increase dues or increase membership. An increase of 100 members will provide \$2000 in additional income. An increase of \$5 in dues will provide \$2125 in additional income. Let's consider the first alternative because it seems the least painful; let each one of us try to bring in a new member. With a membership base of 425 members, we ought to be able to get at least 100 new members.

As you can see, the current budget is rather conservative from a new equipment standpoint. We would like to link our repeaters, install a packet repeater with BBS, refurbish our repeaters with new controllers, all with the idea of increasing membership interest in the club. These new programs cannot be undertaken with the present income level. We are not asking for additional dues this year, but next year it may be necessary to increase dues if the club is to continue to improve technically. To help reduce ex-

penses we are looking at ways to reduce the phone bills at Weston and Stoneham and to defray some of the expenses of our newsletter (*The MINUTEMAN*) by selling advertising space. Every little bit will help because there also will probably be a 50% increase in the rental of meeting space as well as increases in other costs.

Sorry to have to paint this gloomy financial picture, but that is the way things seem to be shaping up.

Currently, payment of the 1987-88 dues is due as of this month, for most of us. Notification of your dues status is attached to the address page of the *Minuteman*. Dues can be paid to the Treasurer at the September 21 meeting in cash or by check, or paid by mail. Make the checks payable to the "MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION" and mail to MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 2282, LEXINGTON, MA 02173.

73, Salty, K1IAO

## 01/61 and 440 Notes

*continued from page 1*

like to help with that project, let me or Scott know.

We'll be keeping you up to date on these projects in *The Minuteman*, along with other information about the operation of both repeaters. If you ever need assistance or information, give me a call on 61. I'm usually listening in the evening.

Andrew Morrison, N1BHI

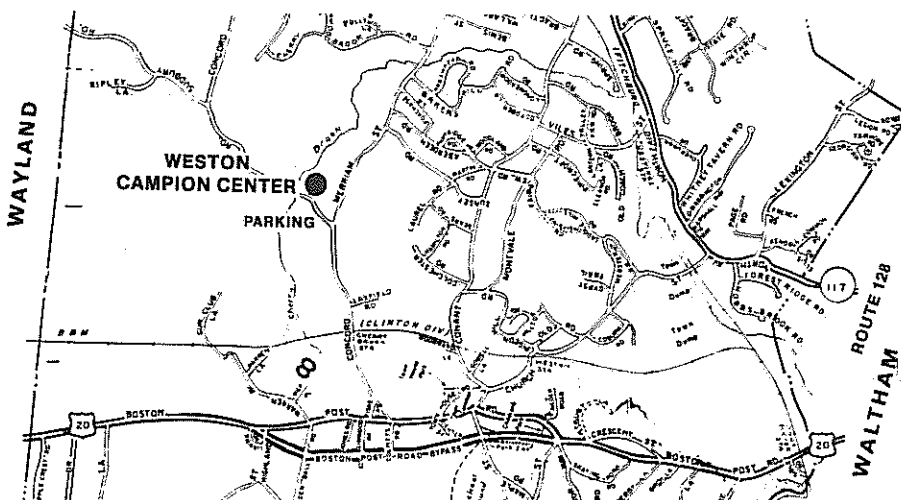
## Simulated Emergency Test

During the weekend of Oct 31-Nov 1 the telephone and electric systems will fail in Eastern Massachusetts, forcing all emergency and routine communications onto emergency-power-equipped radio circuits, including Ham radio. This simulated situation is part of the annual ARRL-sponsored Simulated Emergency Test.

Is your station equipped to operate with emergency power? If it is and if YOU would like to participate in this drill, please contact your local EC or EMASS SEC Barry Porter, 341-2639. It would be nice to have a large group of Hams participate to show off the modern technology we have all come to love to officials of Civil Defense, Red Cross and Emergency Medical Services. The larger the Ham participation in a drill of this scope, the greater the recognition of the services we have to offer.

Barry Porter, KB1PA, SEC EMASS

## How to Get to the Campion Center



## MINUTES OF MMRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JULY 8, 1987

The Board met at 7:30 PM in Al Kunian's law office. K1IAO, KA9CRG, K1PBL, K3BUZ, KA1AL, and N1BHI were present. KB1FZ, KA1CLX, and WB2DCL could not be present.

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The next Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday September 2, 1987 at 7:30 PM in Al Kunian's law office when the budget will be finalized.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ  
Clerk